

# **ALGENITA SCOTT DAVIS**

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TO: Bob Litke, Director of Planning Department  
Carole Lewis, Chairman of Planning Commission  
Urban Committee of Planning Commission  
FROM: Algenita Davis  
RE: Agenda of Urban Committee

I am writing to ask that the Agenda of the Urban Committee of the Planning Commission be modified to address some of the reoccurring situations handled by the Planning Commission in review of development applications in the Houston urban corridor. The Urban Committee is the appropriate venue to discuss and propose the framework for performance standards for the many issues that frequently come before the Planning Commission because of Houston's unique urban development.

It is important that the Urban Committee place on its Agenda those matters related to which the Commission must provide variance from ordinance(s) in order to facilitate common sense development that is good for Houston urban neighborhoods - - residential and commercial. The Minutes of the Commission meetings contain a variety of actions which the Commission has addressed that should be brought before this Committee in discussion. We have many resourceful, committed Committee members that could provide direction based on their experiences. We should take advantage of this opportunity to do more than discuss transit corridor impacts, although this is a very significant facet of our charge.

Some of the areas that must be added to our discussions include the following:

- 1) Providing for planning and performance standards on parcels left throughout the urban corridor because of highway and thoroughfare placement;
- 2) Delineating recommendations that stimulate the development of affordable housing in the more costly infill neighborhoods of Houston, such as the enlarged rear entry streets of Parkside;
- 3) Providing standards that stimulate revitalization which is more pedestrian friendly, such as less street, more sidewalks, denser development where there was formerly dense development in central Houston;
- 4) Establishing coordination practices with the Public Works Department of the City that stimulate development opportunities;
- 5) Actually encouraging planning of green space where parcels have been abandoned or floating somewhere in environmental suspension;

- 6) Establishing flexible standards/guidance for central city commercial opportunities; and
- 7) Other topics that you or our talented, experienced and creative Committee or Commission members may wish to recommend.

I think that we should start with your review of potential topics based on requests to the Commission, such as those above, and then placing this matter before the Committee for designation of a limited number of topics.

Please let me hear from you soon on this matter.